



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

*Play and Recreation for the Open Country.* By HENRY S. CURTIS.  
Boston: Ginn & Co., 1914. Pp. 265. \$1.25.

Some solution is suggested for nearly every problem of rural life in this manual which purports to deal only with the recreational needs and possibilities of the open country. Reason for this breadth of treatment is to be found in the author's view that all interests, for adults and children alike, must be pursued in the spirit of play. Farm life, in his estimation, tends to be increasingly dull, unsocial, and work-ridden. Its need for organized recreation is exceptionally urgent.

The first chapter insists that the hard labor of the farm should not determine the character of rural home life: the development of children should be the primary consideration. Excellent suggestions for children's play are offered. In the chapter on the organization of play in the rural school are practical facts as to rules of games and cost of equipment, and advocacy of such organizations as the Boy Scouts and the Camp Fire Girls.

Since by play the author means not only "recreation" but all work carried on with enthusiasm and intelligence, much is made of the agencies which render rural occupations co-operative and stimulating—the grange, the farmers' institute, the Chautauqua, university extension lectures, country fairs, boys' corn clubs, girls' canning clubs.

How to direct rural recreation is an important question. It is admitted that teachers, ministers, county superintendents, and state secretaries of agriculture are accomplishing something now. The correlation and extension of all available agencies of rural betterment will not be satisfactorily worked out until each community has a permanent, trained, salaried official who devotes his entire time to the problem.

The book, full of information and recommendations, is a valuable guide for teachers, ministers, mothers, and directors of recreation in rural districts.

E. L. TALBERT

UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI

---

*The Rural Church Movement.* By EDWIN L. EARP. Methodist Book Concern, 1914. Pp. 177. \$0.75 net.

In the preface to the volume the author states that his purpose has been to select out of the history of the movement those outstanding facts and methods that have been of value and apply them to the conditions of rural life the church is now facing, showing those adapted to new conditions, and those to be discarded because no longer useful. The treat-

ment which the writer gives his subject realizes the aim in his characteristic way. The volume is popular in its style and well adapted to the unspecialized reader. It has vigor and stimulus so that it will doubtless be read by many workers and dwellers in the country.

The work is both historical and sociological. Lessons for rural purposes are gained from considering the rural-mindedness of biblical leaders, from Teutonic peoples and the American pioneer period. The facts and causes of church decline are presented. The causes he gives are the influence of crank and schism in rural religious life, growth of industrialism, the urban movement, persistence of backward rural-church methods, an inadequate and relatively inferior rural ministry, and urbanized education of country ministers (pp. 76-80). Elsewhere he shows that denominational divisiveness is an additional cause (p. 76).

The outstanding ideas of the book may be summarized as follows: The country church must develop a spiritual leadership, since leadership is a fundamental necessity of rural reconstruction (chap. i). The church, together with the Sunday school and all its other appendages, must be socialized. This thought runs through all the work (see especially chaps. vi-x). Much is made of the "social-center parish plan." By this is meant the territorial centralization of the church, the consolidated school, and the "voluntary economic, social, and political associations of rural life" (p. 31). Where this plan has been tried it has had tonic effects on church attendance and growth (p. 67). The various elements in the development of the plan are considered in chap. vii. Chaps. x-xii are devoted to the beneficial effects on rural life of co-operation and federation of churches, of the Christian associations, and of a reconstructed home missions policy.

The author is broad and progressive in his ideas and the volume is characterized by a spirit of sanity. The work is not critical but it is wholesome.

JOHN M. GILLETTE

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA

---

*Railway Conductors.* A Study in Organized Labor. By EDWIN CLYDE ROBBINS. Columbia Studies, No. 148. New York: Longmans, Green & Co., 1914. Pp. 183. \$1.50.

This is a "recital of facts, giving the aims, purposes, and activities of the Order, based upon official records." It deals with the history and government of the Order, its trade regulations and benefit system; the